

May 18, 2017

The Commercial Record

Subdivision board backs path plan

To the editor,

As the Saugatuck Woods Homeowners Association board of directors, we would like to offer our support for the proposed non-motorized trail which will front our 33 acres of nature preserve along Blue Star Highway in Saugatuck Township.

We look forward to having access to both Douglas and Saugatuck via the trail in a manner safe for both bicyclists and pedestrians. The current situation of motorized traffic speeds and limited safe space along the roadway make such use today dangerous in our opinions.

The planned trail will not impact the natural setting of the nature preserve area that buffers our homes from the highway and will offer us safe means of non-motorized travel outside of our own subdivision.

As is true of most resort areas, the cities of Douglas and Saugatuck offer limited parking. With our close proximity, it is just as easy for us to walk or ride a bicycle with our friends or families into either of these two cities. However, with the busy highway and a small, limited shoulder, it is neither safe nor wise to walk or ride along it.

The trail will provide us safe access into either town to enjoy the amenities without the frustration of struggling to find parking. By walking or riding our bikes, we can free up the parking we would fill for the out-of-town visitors who provide the revenue for the summer success of our local businesses.

The health benefits are obvious for trail users. Improved safety, the reduced use of fossil-fueled vehicles and downtown parking relief are more positive aspects.

We look forward to having available the section of Blue Star Trail that will join us with the rest of our local community, and anticipate the future expansion that will link South Haven to Holland along our beautiful lakeshore communities.

SWHA board members Brian Teunis, Sabatino Palmucci, Shelly Craig, Mary Newton and Lincoln Brackett